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Letter dated 25 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 25 May 2007 from Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, addressed to you (see annex). Enclosed with the letter is a document entitled "Initiative of the Republic of Serbia to Commence a New Stage of Negotiations on the Status of Kosovo and Metohija" (see enclosure).

In forwarding the said documents, I would appreciate it if you would bring them to the attention of the Security Council and have them circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pavle **Jevremović**

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Annex to the letter dated 25 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Republic of Serbia remains fully committed to finding a peaceful, lasting and comprehensive solution to the future status of Kosovo and Metohija, rooted in the fundamental principles and norms of international law. In the interest of advancing this long-held commitment, I have the pleasure to submit to you the Republic of Serbia's Initiative to Commence a New Stage of Negotiations on the Status of Kosovo and Metohija (see enclosure). I kindly request that the text of the initiative be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and, of the Security Council.

I further request that, taking the initiative into account, you propose an appropriate procedure for the conduct of this new stage of status negotiations, bearing in mind the importance of finding a mutually agreed upon solution to the status of Kosovo and Metohija for the long-term stability and prosperity of the Republic of Serbia and all the Western Balkans.

(*Signed*) Vuk **Jeremić**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Initiative of the Republic of Serbia to Commence a New Stage of Negotiations on the Status of Kosovo and Metohija

Proceeding from the generally accepted fact that the negotiations on the future status of Kosovo and Metohija, conducted between 21 February 2006 and 10 March 2007, did not result in an agreed-upon proposed solution,

Taking into account the content of the Comprehensive Status Settlement Proposal for Kosovo, submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General by his Special Envoy for the future status process for Kosovo and Metohija, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, as well as the fact that the Comprehensive Proposal for Kosovo and Metohija Status Settlement is totally unacceptable to the Republic of Serbia, as can be seen through the clearly articulated position of the Republic of Serbia and the large number of proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Proposal submitted by the negotiating team of the Republic of Serbia,

Bearing in mind, moreover, the substantive objections of the Republic of Serbia on the manner in which the negotiations were conducted, itself an important reason for their failure,

Drawing the attention of all Member States of the United Nations and international public opinion to the clearly intended outcome of the Comprehensive Proposal, namely the violation of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Security Council resolutions (1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), adopted in 1998, and 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999), both adopted in 1999), by proposing the granting of independence to a province that is an integral part of the Republic of Serbia, a democratic, internationally recognized State and a Member of the United Nations,

Calling on all international actors to contribute to a peaceful, lasting, sustainable and comprehensive solution to the issue of Kosovo and Metohija on the basis of the principles, norms and good practices of international law, on which the present-day international order is based,

The Government of the Republic of Serbia presents an initiative to commence a new stage of negotiations between representatives of the Republic of Serbia and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo and Metohija.

The main objective of this new stage of negotiations is to reach a compromise solution to the status of Kosovo and Metohija between interested parties. Such a solution, together with international mediation, would guarantee the long-term stability of the region and would fulfil the conditions for its unimpeded economic and social development.

In order for this goal to be achieved, it is necessary to establish a good negotiating environment, propose the appropriate procedure and allow for an appropriate time frame that does not artificially impose time limits.

In proposing this initiative, the Republic of Serbia, aware of the historic importance of a just settlement of the issue, stands ready to fully accept its share of responsibility for the successful conduct and conclusion of negotiations.